BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 9, 2018

Chairman Russo called this meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. in the School Committee Room, Administration Offices, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, Massachusetts. Present: Mrs. Christine Monaco, Mr. Stephen Nelson, Mr. Thomas F. Murphy, Jr. and Ms. Martha Simon. Superintendent Eric Conti, Asst. Superintendent Patrick Larkin, Finance Manager Nichole Coscia, and Director of Operations Bob Cunha also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve minutes of 9/25/18; motion carried 5-0-0.

APPROVAL OF WARRANT
Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Ms. Simon to approve the warrant; motion carried 3-0-2; Mr. Murphy and Mr. Nelson abstained.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
None.

INFORMATION/REPORTS
Student Representative
Student representative Ria Kamani reported on upcoming high school fundraisers: Blaze pizza, tee shirts, volleyball, and pies/cookie dough.

Subcommittee Reports
Dr. Conti congratulated Hall of Fame inductees recognized last night, thanked Chairman Russo and Mr. Nelson for attending, and thanked event organizers as well.

Ways/Means
The Superintendent stated that financial reports will be on the agenda for the next three School Committee agendas. Mrs. Monaco requested the inclusion of updates: student activity account, revolving accounts, online purchasing system, Powers & Sullivan progress, and the presentation be in a PowerPoint format.

INSTRUCTION/TECHNOLOGY
Social/Emotional Learning - Francis Wyman School
Francis Wyman Principal Nicole McDonald was accompanied by Assistant Principal Daryl Doiron and a group of Francis Wyman teachers to make a presentation on social and emotional learning at their school, which is a component of Planning for Success.

Special Education teachers Mrs. DeMarco and Mrs. Kucha and first grade teacher Mrs. Marsh presented a comprehensive overview and examples of their Zones of Regulation in the classroom by teaching students: self-regulation, helping recognize different emotions and feelings, calming strategies, provide opportunities for teachers to gain a better understanding of how their students are feeling. Mrs. Kucha taught a professional development workshop on this subject at BPScon in August.

Fifth grade teachers Mrs. D’Amico and Mrs. Agostino reviewed a component of responsive classroom, morning meeting with students which includes greeting, sharing, morning message and a group activity.

First grade teacher Irene Farmer explained mindfulness lessons used in her classroom to teach students how to calm down when they are not upset through mindful: listening, breathing, seeing, smelling eating, movement and heartfulness. Ms. Farmer also offers 10 minutes of mindful meditation to staff every Tuesday.

Principal McDonald thanked her staff for sharing their time and talents, thanked the School Committee for providing lower class sizes, training, needed resources and support. Dr. Conti commented that in-district programming is located at Francis Wyman and later in the year the Committee will need to consider keeping a sixth section of current second graders as they progress into third grade. The School Committee thanked these staff members for showing the techniques used, commented the strategies are great tools for helping students and compliments teachers on expanding their skills, and when students can address feelings it can help them get to a regulated zone to facilitate learning and will also help with achievement.

NEW BUSINESS
Mass. New Updated Foundation Budget Formula Resolution
By consensus, this item was taken out of order. BEA President Diana Marcus and MTA representatives Jill Coleman and Gene Vinett were in attendance for support of this item, requesting that the School Committee support a resolution by submitting it to the Mass. Legislature that the state’s foundation budget formula, which determines state aid to each

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district, has been underfunded and an updated foundation budget formula would bring Burlington Public Schools up to $1 million in additional state aid each year, allowing this district to move closer to providing all students with the education to which they are entitled as residents of Massachusetts. After a brief discussion in support of this resolution, it was moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to adopt the resolutions as submitted in backup materials; motion carried 5-0-0.

**INSTRUCTION/TECHNOLOGY**  
**Spring 2018 MCAS Overview**

Assistant Superintendent Larkin provided an overview of the Spring 2018 MCAS Results. Elementary students taking the next generation MCAS showed a 9% increase in grades 3-5 ELA scores scoring exceeding expectations or meeting expectations and a 4% increase in math scores. After last year’s concern with elementary writing scores, keyboards for iPads were purchased and students practiced with the new keyboards on the iPad.

Middle school scores showed a 8% increase in both ELA and math scores in the top 2 categories. High school students who took a paper legacy MCAS test also showed a slight increase in scores with 97% of students scoring advanced or proficient in ELA and slightly lower scores in Math with 82% of students scoring advanced or proficient.

In response to Mrs. Monaco, Mr. Larkin replied that he believes last year’s issues were technology issues and this year there were very few technical issues. Principals have received their students’ scores and will be reviewing them with staff at grade level meetings. Mr. Larkin was requested to email the Committee MCAS grade level item analyses and Ms. Simon requested a new pull down category be created on the new school website for testing/accountability.

**COMMUNICATION**  
**Keeping Children Safe & Secure**  
**Online – Parent Presentation**

Dr. Conti thanked the BEF for sponsoring and the US Attorney’s Office for presenting a parent meeting at the middle school on October 17 on the subject of Keeping Children Safe & Secure Online. Mr. Larkin explained that a watered down version of the presentation will be given to students in grades 5-8 on the same day.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Dr. Conti explained that Mr. Iler’s proposed policy and procedures document, which includes a spending policy will be reviewed by staff and it’s anticipated it will be on the October 23 agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Special Education Program**  
**Review – Subcommittee Appointment**

The Superintendent stated that a tour of the DSC program at Pine Glen will be conducted on October 23 for the Ways & Means subcommittee as well as the School Committee to see the program environment and staffing levels. Special Education Director Mary Houde has staffing level concerns and has suggested a subcommittee be created to look at district special education programs. Mrs. Monaco explained that special education programs will be evaluated, changes recommended for existing programs, possible extensions of programming will be considered to meet the educational needs of all students particularly with so many areas of budgetary pressure.

The School Committee concurred to take no action on the appointment of a subcommittee until after the DSC tour and consider a subcommittee approval at the October 23 School Committee meeting. Mrs. Monaco and Ms. Simon volunteered to be on this potential subcommittee.

**Restraint Prevention & Behavior Support Policy & Procedures - First Reading**

Special Education Director Mary Houde has submitted a revised up-to-date Restraint Prevention & Behavior Policy & Procedures policy supplied by special education Attorney Tom Nuttall for a first reading to replace current policy JKAA. As this is a first reading, the School Committee will take this under advisement and vote on it at the October 23 meeting.

**Out-of-State Staff Travel - Approval**

Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve out-of-state travel for Renee Sacco and Carrie Fortunato to the Annual Response to Intervention Best Practices Institute on October 29-31 in North Carolina; motion carried 5-0-0.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

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ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Conti informed the Committee that there was no need for Executive Session this evening. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Murphy at 9:40 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Gilbert
Recording Secretary

Date submitted: 11/20/18
Date approved: 11/20/18